

REMARKS

The Official Action confirms that Claims 2 and 10-16 are allowed and that dependent Claims 9 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, the Official Action rejects Claims 1, 3-8 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,431,508 to Takayuki Kitamura. As discussed during the telephonic interview connected on January 25, 2008, the Kitamura '508 patent fails to teach or suggest the apparatus of Claims 1 and 3-8 and the method of Claims 17-19. As such, the rejection of Claims 1, 3-8 and 17-19 is therefore traversed. As such, reconsideration of the present application and allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

With reference to independent Claim 1, an apparatus for attaching a cable to a structure is defined which includes an elongated rod and first and second elongate sleeves mounted on the elongated rod and capable of assuming first and second positions relative to the elongated rod. In the first position, a portion of the first sleeve may be inserted into a hole defined by the structure. Notably, the first position facilitates insertion of "a portion of said second sleeve in said first sleeve". In response to the axial translation of the first and second sleeves along the elongated rod to the second position, the portion of the first sleeve within the hole will positively engage the hole. Additionally, movement of the first and second sleeves to the second position will "cause radial expansion of the portion of said second sleeve within said first sleeve to facilitate a positive engagement of the expanded portion of the second sleeve with said first sleeve". As such, a portion of the second sleeve is within said first sleeve in the first position and that portion of the second sleeve within the first sleeve is radially expanded in the second position so as to positively engage the second sleeve with the first sleeve.

The Official Action submits that the Kitamura '508 patent describes an apparatus having an elongated rod 43 with a first sleeve 44 and a second sleeve 45 mounted upon the elongated rod. As discussed from the telephone interview and in contrast to independent Claim 1, the second sleeve 45 of the Kitamura '508 patent is not disposed within the first sleeve and is not radially expanded so as to positively engage the first

sleeve. Instead, as shown in Figure 4, the second sleeve is actually disposed outside the first sleeve, that is, in the exact opposite positional relationship to that set forth by independent Claim 1. Indeed, the Kitamura '508 patent depends upon the insertion of a portion of the first sleeve 44 within the second sleeve 45 in order to secure the first sleeve upon the rod 43. See, for example, column 4, lines 61-65 of the Kitamura '508 patent, which states "the locking sleeve 45 advances and is mounted on the outer peripheral surface of the collet chuck 44, thereby preventing the collet chuck 44 from being expanded such that the collet chuck is in a locked state."

For each of the foregoing reasons, the Kitamura '508 patent does not teach or suggest the apparatus of independent Claim 1. As such, the rejection of independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 3-8 which depend therefrom, is therefore overcome.


Independent Claim 17 is directed to a method for attaching a cable to a structure and recites "translating the first and second sleeves axially along the elongated rod...to cause radial expansion of the second sleeve within the first sleeve to facilitate a positive engagement of the second sleeve with the first sleeve." As described above in conjunction with independent Claim 1, the Kitamura '508 patent does not teach or suggest the radial expansion of the second sleeve within the first sleeve. As such, the Kitamura '508 patent also fails to teach or suggest the method of independent Claim 17 for at least the same reasons as described above in conjunction with independent Claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of independent Claim 17, as well as Claims 18 and 19 which depend therefrom, are also respectfully submitted to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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